

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OC-06 CU-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NEA-10

DRC-01 /175 W

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P R 251306Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3243

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UG

SUBJECT: USG-GOU RELATIONS: OFFICIAL VERSION OF GENERAL AMIN'S  
COMMENTS TO MAKERERE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CONCERNING  
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

REFS: (A) KAMPALA 3133; (B) KAMPALA 3145

1. AS REPORTED REF A, THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM AN AMCIT THAT GENERAL AMIN HAD MADE A STATEMENT TO THE STUDENTS OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ON OCTOBER 19 THAT HE HAD "FORGIVEN" ALL AMERICANS IN UGANDA BECAUSE THEY SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY. THIS STATEMENT WAS NEVER REPORTED IN THE LOCAL NEWS MEDIA, WHICH RAISED SOME QUESTION REGARDING THE ACCURACY OF THE REPORT, OR THE POSSIBILITY THAT AMIN HAD CHANGED HIS MIND. (SEE REF B FOR COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO  
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AMIN BY RADIO UGANDA ON OCTOBER 19 DURING HIS "DRIEFING" OF

THE MAKERERE STUDENTS.)

2. THE EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED THE OCTOBER 22 EDITION OF UGANDA NEWS, AN OFFICIAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PUBLICATION, WHICH STATED THAT AMIN TOLD THE STUDENTS AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY THAT HE WAS NOT AGAINST AMERICANS AND HOPED THAT CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND UGANDA COULD BE MAINTAINED AND STRENGTHENED. ALTHOUGH WE NOW HAVE THREE VERSIONS OF WHAT AMIN REPORTEDLY SAID ON OCTOBER 19, IT DOES APPEAR THAT HE WAS TRYING AT THAT TIME TO SOFTEN HIS EARLIER THREAT TO ARREST ALL AMERICANS AND TO MEND HIS FENCES WITH THE UNITED STATES. SINCE THEN, AMIN HAS ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES, ISRAEL AND BRITAIN OF PLANNING TO INVADE UGANDA. HOW THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT SHOULD BE INTERPRETED IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

3. THE FULL TEXT OF THE UGANDA NEWS ARTICLE IS AS FOLLOWS:O  
BEGIN TEXT. PRESIDENT AMIN HAS ONCE AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS NOT AT ALL AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS SUCH AND THAT IN FACT HE REGARDS THEM AS HIS VERY GOOD FRIENDS AND THAT IT IS HIS WISH THAT THE EXISTING CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND UGANDA BE MAINTAINED AND STRENGTHENED.

THE PRESIDENT SAID THIS WHEN HE BRIEFED MAKERERE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ABOUT HIS RECENT FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS THE POLICY OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA TO BE FRIENDLY TO ALL PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. IN THIS CONNECTION THEREFORE HE WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE AMERICAN POLICY OF SUPPORTING ISRAEL OCCUPATION OF ARAB LAND DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD OPINION HAVE CONDEMNED ISRAEL ACTION AND HAS CALLED UPON HER TO WITHDRAW TO THE PRE-1967 POSITION. ISRAEL HAS IGNORED UNITED NATIONS AND WORLD OPINION ON THIS MATTER.

AS AN EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ISRAEL BY THE UNITED STATES, THE PRESIDENT INFORMED THE STUDENTS THAT IT WAS KNOWN TO HIM THAT ISRAEL WAS NOW GETTING MORE SUPPORT FROM AMERICA BY WAY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING AIRCRAFT THAT  
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HAD BEEN USED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. HE TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE NO CAUSE FOR FIGHTING AND THAT WHEN HE TALKED TO SOME PRISONERS OF WAR HE DISCOVERED THAT THE MORALE OF ISRAEL WAS VERY LOW.

FOR EXAMPLE, SOME PILOTS WERE FORCED TO FIGHT AND TO DO THIS THEY WERE CHAINED TO THEIR AIRCRAFT SO THAT THEY COULD NOT BAIL OUT.

NEVERTHELESS, HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN HIS FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE PRESIDENT INFORMED THE STUDENTS THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS HAD COMPLAINED OF THE SITUATION EXISTING IN AMERICA WHEREBY THE MINORITY JEWS POPULATION WAS CONTROLLING A GREATER PART OF THE ECONOMY.

TURNING TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HAVING BEEN TO THE FRONT LINE, HE WAS ABLE TO ASSESS THAT THE WAR THIS TIME WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE OF NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN, THAT THE ISRAEL TACTICS WERE OUTDATED AND THAT THEY WERE ON THE LOSING SIDE. THE PRESIDENT REVEALED THAT ACCORDING TO HIS ASSESSMENT THE WAR FROM THE ARAB SIDE HAS NOT ACTUALLY STARTED IN FULL SWING.

THE LIBERATION FORCES WERE EVERY DAY RECEIVING MORE SUPPORT MORALLY AND PRACTICALLY.

AS FOR UGANDA, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAD ALREADY VOLUNTEERED TO GO AND FIGHT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE LOST ARAB LANDS. UGANDA REGARDS THE WAR AS THE WAR OF LIBERATION. AS EGYPT IS PART OF AFRICA, IT WAS THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR UGANDA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO SEND PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE BECAUSE AFTER THE MIDDLE EAST VICTORY IT WILL THEN BE POSSIBLE TO LAUNCH ANOTHER WAR TO LIBERATE SOUTHERN AFRICA, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

THIS WAS THE MAIN REASON WHY UGANDA WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE WAR.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO DISCLOSED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE GOING TO NEW YORK TO ADDRESS THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE TWENTY FIFTH OF THIS MONTH BECAUSE HE WAS GOING BACK TO  
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THE MIDDLE EAST TO PREPARE GROUND FOR UGANDANS TO GO AND FIGHT ALONGSIDE OF THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. END TEXT.  
KEELEY

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